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## Russian Federation

### Fishery Products

## New Regulation for Veterinary Surveillance on Fish and Seafood Products

**2008**

**Approved by:**

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**Report Highlights:**

Order No.453 dated October 6, 2008, establishes new import and export regulations for veterinary surveillance of fish and seafood products. Although the purpose of this rule is to curb smuggling and unbridled falsification of veterinary documentation, trade sources foresee an increase in bureaucracy and additional difficulties that will affect the fishing companies.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Trade Report  
Moscow [RS1]  
[RS]

## Overview

Russian Minister of Agriculture Aleksey Gordeyev, signed Order No. 453 on October 6, 2008, establishing new import and export regulations for veterinary surveillance of fish and seafood products. An informal translation of the document is provided below.

Officials from the Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) indicated that the purpose of this order is to improve the current veterinary regulation on fish and seafood, to ensure food safety of products of animal origin, and to combat out-of-control smuggling and unbridled falsification of veterinary documentation.

However, according to trade sources this order will increase bureaucratic hurdles and create additional difficulties for Russian importers. They also believed that in an effort to gain more stringent control over fish trade, VPSS officials duplicated the requirements for the paperwork that fishing companies and processors are obliged to obtain for each shipment. According to these sources, the implementation of the order will result in increasing waiting time for shipment clearance at the ports rather than addressing food safety issues. It is reported that the head of the Russian Federal Fisheries Agency Andrey Krayniy is also opposed to the regulation and strongly believes that veterinarians should not inspect marine fish products in the Russian ports.

Below is an informal translation of the Order published by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Begin text.

Order of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation  
(Ministry of Agriculture of Russia)

**Dated October 6, 2008 Number 453 Moscow**

**Registered at the Ministry of Justice of the RF on November 13, 2008  
Registration No. 12636**

On Approval of Regulations for Veterinary Surveillance over Hydrobionts, Fish, Seafood and Products Manufactured from them for the purpose of improving veterinary regulations in accordance with item 5.2.9 of the Statute on the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation approved by the Resolution of the Russian Federation Government from June 12, 2008 No. 450 (Compilation of the laws of the Russian Federation, 2008, No. 25, art. 2983; No. 32, art. 3791), **I decree:** to approve the attached Regulations for veterinary surveillance over importing, processing, storage, transportation, and marketing of imported hydrobionts, fish, seafood and products manufactured from them, export of hydrobionts, fish, seafood and products manufactured from them from the territory of the Russian Federation.

**Minister A. Gordeyev**

### Attachment

Regulations for veterinary surveillance over importing, processing, storage, transportation, and marketing of imported hydrobionts, fish, seafood and products manufactured from them, export of hydrobionts, fish, seafood and products manufactured from them from the territory of the Russian Federation.

#### **I. General provisions**

1. The present Regulations are developed in accordance with the Russian Federation Law dated 14.05.1993 No. 4979-1 "On Veterinary Medicine" (Official Gazette of the Congress of the People's Deputies and Supreme Council of the Russian Federation, 1993, No. 24, art. 857; Compilation of the Laws of the Russian Federation, 2002, No. 1, art. 2; 2004,

No. 27, art. 2711, No. 35, art. 3607; 2005, No. 19, art. 1752; 2006, No. 1, art. 10; No. 52, art. 5498; 2007, No. 1, art. 29; No. 30, art. 3805).

2. Rules for veterinary surveillance over importing, processing, storage, transportation, and marketing (except for retailers and catering facilities) of imported hydrobionts, fish, seafood and products manufactured from them, export of hydrobionts, fish, seafood and products manufactured from them from the territory of the Russian Federation (hereinafter – Products) regulate activities of the Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance and its territorial divisions (hereinafter – VPSS territorial directorates) aimed at exercising authorities of control and supervision to ensure veterinary safety of the Russian Federation.
3. Only an economic entity that has been inspected with regards to its compliance with the requirements of the Russian Federation laws in the prescribed field of activities (hereinafter – inspection) may be given a permission to import, store and market, and also to export the imported Products from the territory of the Russian Federation.
4. Inspection is organized by VPSS territorial directorates on the basis of an application of the economic entity. Application for inspection is sent to the head of the VPSS territorial directorate, in whose operational region Products are intended to be imported/exported.
5. A commission is established by decision of the head of the VPSS territorial directorate to conduct the inspection. The commission must include officials from the VPSS territorial directorate and officials of the veterinary executive authority of the constituent entity of the Russian Federation, on whose territory Products are intended to be imported/exported, and also an authorized representative of the economic entity.

In accordance with the results of the inspection, a certificate of inspection is composed that is approved by the head of the VPSS territorial directorate and coordinated with the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the corresponding constituent entity of the Russian Federation. Certificate of inspection is composed in four copies, one of which is kept at VPSS, the second copy – at the VPSS territorial directorate, the third copy is handed over to the economic entity, and the forth copy is delivered to the veterinary executive authority of the corresponding constituent entity of the Russian Federation.

6. Based on the results of the inspection reflected in the certificate of inspection, VPSS makes a decision to include the economic entity into the list of economic entities of the Russian Federation that have necessary conditions for Products production, storage and/or processing (hereinafter – the list), or to refuse to include the inspected economic entity into the list.
7. VPSS maintains the list of economic entities of the Russian Federation that have necessary conditions for Products production, storage and/or processing. The list is maintained on paper and in electronic format and posted on the VPSS official website: <http://www.fsvps.ru>.

## **II. Procedures for establishing veterinary surveillance over importing, processing, storage, transportation, and marketing of imported Products.**

8. Imported Products are imported into the territory of the Russian Federation on the basis of the written permission of the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation (except for the heat treated finished goods).

9. It is permitted to import into the territory of the Russian Federation:

- Healthy hydrobionts (fish, fertilized roe, crawfish, frogs, shellfish, invertebrates) originating from farms and administrative territories free from contagious diseases including viral hemorrhagic septicemia of trout (VHS), infectious pancreas necrosis of Salmonidae (IPN), aeromonosis (furunculosis) of Salmonidae, twist disease, carp spring viremia (VPS), drancunculidosis of eel (for the last 3 years on the farm (import reservoir);
- Hydrobionts, as well as fertilized roe that must be accompanied with documents issued by a competent authority of the exporting country confirming freedom from agents of contagious diseases of hydrobionts. Feed organisms (bloodworm, brine shrimp eggs and others) must not contain toxicogenic and pathogenic microorganisms;
- Live, chilled fish, seafood, and products from them manufactured at enterprises that have permission from the competent entity of the exporting country to export products and that are under its constant supervision;
- Commercial seawater and freshwater fish, as well as seafood that have documents from the competent entity of the exporting country confirming freedom from parasites and bacterial and viral infections. Should there be parasites within the permissible levels, fish must be decontaminated.

10. It is not permitted to import into the territory of the Russian Federation:

10.1 Hydrobionts that do not meet the requirements specified in p. 9 of the present Regulations.

10.2 Fish and seafood that do not meet the requirements specified in p. 9 of the present Regulations, and also those that are:

- contaminated with agents of bacterial infections;
- showing changes typical for contagious diseases;
- treated with colorants and odorants, ionizing radiation or ultraviolet rays;
- frozen fish and seafood that have temperature above 12 degrees below zero Celsius inside product, or subjected to defrostation within the storage period.

11. In the course of the veterinary and sanitary evaluation imported Products must be considered fit for human consumption and must not contain residues of substances and preparations prohibited by the laws of the Russian Federation.

Microbiological, parasitic, chemico-toxicological and radiological characteristics of safety of imported Products must meet the requirements of the laws of the Russian Federation in the prescribed field of activities.

12. If imported products are detected at the Russian Federation border checkpoints or customs checkpoints accompanied with veterinary accompanying documents that are not in compliance with the issuance requirements, without veterinary accompanying documents, an official authorized by the head of the corresponding VPSS territorial directorate makes a decision regarding a possibility to import or return the cargo as established by law.
13. If imported products arrive to the Russian Federation border checkpoints or customs checkpoints from countries (regions of countries, zones) that have been restricted due to their epizootic ill-being, or if prohibited chemical or biological substances are detected in imported products, VPSS makes a decision regarding a possibility to import them as established by law.

### **III. Procedures for establishing veterinary surveillance over export of Products from the territory of the Russian Federation.**

14. Export from the Russian Federation is permitted on the basis of the written permission of the Chief State Veterinary Inspector of the Russian Federation (except for the heat treated finished goods).
15. It is permitted to export Products from the Russian Federation that were manufactured at establishments included in the list.
16. Commercial seawater and freshwater fish as well as seafood must be tested for freedom from parasites, bacterial and viral infections. Should there be parasites within the permissible levels, Products must be decontaminated.
17. It is not permitted to export from the Russian Federation Products that do not meet the requirements specified in p. 9 of the present Regulations, as well as frozen Products that:
  - show changes typical for infectious diseases;
  - contain histamine and volatile free nitrogen (TVB-N and TMA-N) in amounts exceeding permissible levels;
  - are contaminated with microorganisms above established levels;
  - contain parasites in quantities exceeding permissible levels;
  - have been treated with colorants and odorants, ionizing radiation or ultraviolet rays;
  - contain toxins above levels established by the requirements of the importing country.
18. Based on the results of the veterinary and sanitary evaluation Products must be considered fit for human consumption and must not contain residues of substances and preparations prohibited by the laws of the Russian Federation.

Microbiological, parasitic, chemico-toxicological and radiological characteristics of safety of Products must meet the veterinary and sanitary requirements of the importing country.

End Text.

